

CUP DAY IN VICTORIA.

The Great Event in the Calendar of the City of Melbourne.

No one who has not visited Australia can have any conception of the interest which attaches to such a race as the Melbourne cup, which, with its sweepstakes, from the one hundred and forty-nine entries that were made in 1930, its trophy of £150 value, and its added money of £10,000, amounting altogether to £15,000, is the most important money contest in the world, says Sidney Dickinson in Scribner's Magazine. On the day of its occurrence all business is suspended by mutual consent throughout Victoria, the banks and government offices are all closed, and by twelve o'clock the streets of Melbourne are as silent and deserted as if the city were stricken with a plague. For a week before the event, the railway trains from Sydney, to the number of seven or eight in a day, and all the inter-colonial and mail steamers from that city and Adelaide, are taxed to their utmost capacity, and the accommodations of Melbourne, as well as all the neighboring towns, are taken up by the immense concourse of visitors. The facilities for reaching Flemington are so good, however, and the course itself so spacious that even at the great race of the centennial year, when more than 140,000 persons were upon the grounds, one saw the event with perfect comfort, and was transported to and from the course without five minutes' waiting at either end of the line. The admirable temper and sobriety of the great assembly are largely responsible for such a result. During the four days' meeting of 1888 only five arrests were made on the grounds, and none of these was for serious offenses. The crowd at an Australian race meeting is often rough in appearance, but in orderliness and good nature can hardly be excelled.

BIRD SONG.

By It the Feathered Race Depicts Love and Fate.

The gift of bird song is largely a masculine prerogative, an expression of tender sentiment by which the affection of the opposite sex may be attracted and retained. Indeed the birds furnish no exception to the sweeping assertion that "it is love that gives the key to all earth's music." They sing from love and happiness, says one; from love and rivalry, another asserts; while joy and buoyancy of spirits are said by a third authority to be answerable for their music. That most of the species sing best in the spring is well known, the motive that is responsible for the general outpour of song being a result of its influence; they are happy to be at home again in the old haunts, to be surrounded by plenty and to feel the matchless sweetness of returning springtime.

One of the most delightful of our American essayists believes all birds to be inept or would be songsters then—that even the hen has a homely, contented carol—and he credits the owl with a desire to fill the night with music. The light of love within the little bird's heart is brightest at that season and overflows and illumines his song; "the language of passion keeps time to the heart's rhythm" until the full beauty of the flower of love is reached in the thousands of beautiful homes about us.

THE PARSON'S TEETH.

They Didn't Arrive, So He Had to Be Excused.

There is a story of a clergyman who had taken temporary duty for a friend, and who had the ill-luck to injure his false teeth during the week. The plate was sent to the dentist's for repairs, a faithful assurance being given that it should be duly returned by Sunday's post; but the dentist or the post proved faithless.

With the assistance of the clerk, the clergyman managed to stumble through the prayers, but felt it would be useless to attempt to preach. He therefore instructed the clerk to "make some excuse for him and dismiss the congregation."

But his feelings may be better imagined than described when, in the seclusion of the vestry, he overheard the clerk, in impressive tones, thus deliver the "excuse":

"Parson's very sorry, but it is his misfortune to be obligated to wear a set of artificial teeth. They busted last Wednesday, and he ain't got them back from London to-day, as he was promised. I've helped him all I could through the service, but I can't do no more for him; 'tain't any use for him going into the pulpit, for you wouldn't understand a word he said, so he thinks you all may as well go home."

The Way Cyclones Turn.

The question is often asked: Why do cyclones, "whirlwinds" and tornadoes all persist in the polar whirl of from right to left? Astronomical speculators have supposed that all the planets once existed as rings of thin, scattered matter around the sun, and that these rings were angular segregations from a vague, irregularly scattered mass that turned one way in spiral courses, thus determining the direction in which the rings revolved, and all the rest from that took the same course. "But," you say, "why did the nebula revolve at all?" It grew from chaos, and chaos, presumably, possessed an inherent motion from right to left. This being the case, from that time to this, sun, moon, stars, planets, cyclones and tornadoes have adhered to the original habit.

Matching of Teeth.

Dentists say that the greatest difficulty they meet with in their work is the matching of false teeth with the natural teeth of their customers. The tooth factories supply dentists with rings upon which are strung thin metal bars, each carrying a tooth at its extremity. There are twenty-five of these sample teeth, that run all the way from nearly white to a shade that is as good as black.

Field of the Forty Footprints.

Southampton fields, known to the curious members of the world as "The Field of the Forty Footprints," is a small plot of ground lying directly to the rear of the British museum, London. Tradition says that two brothers, some time during the duke of Monmouth's rebellion, engaged in a deadly duel upon this little piece of vacant ground. Both were killed. When the grass began to grow in the following spring, there were forty dead footprints in it, one

representing every man who died in the battle, and the other representing the man who was the last to fall, the last to be taken before exchanging the fatal shot. To this day the place is known by the name given in the headlines of this article.

ATTAR OF ROSES.

Expense and Trouble Necessary for the Production of a Single Pound.

Attar of roses is generally spoken of as the most extravagantly costly perfume in the world, but when the trouble and expense of raising the roses and securing the essence is taken into account it is really very reasonable in price, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. If the delicious perfume were produced in this country and the lowest wages in the land paid for labor it could not be retailed at even three times the existing prices. Nearly all the attar of roses in the world comes from the portion of Europe which used to be a part of Turkey, but which is now under Russian influence. To secure a pound of essence it is necessary to have an entire acre of ground covered with roses and to have a good crop even then, and then the cultivators cannot rely on receiving more than seventy or seventy-five dollars a pound.

The labor of cultivation is very arduous, and plucking the roses is even more so, the work being done by women, whose hands are torn all to pieces by the work, and whose pay barely suffices to buy food. Roses have been cultivated in other countries for a similar purpose, but the return is nowhere so large as in the neighborhood of the Balkans, where the soil and climate appear exceptionally adapted for the purpose. It may be added that the sweet smell of a genuine Turkish cigarette is the result of adulterating the tobacco with the refuse from the rosebuds and stalks.

HIT BY A METEORITE.

The Startling Experience of a Life Insurance Agent in Missouri.

"I am, perhaps, the only man in America who was ever hit by an acro-lite," said Col. Sid Fontaine to a St. Louis Globe-Democrat man. "I'm in the life insurance business, and one day last week procured a buggy and drove out from Sedalia to a farmhouse to settle up a loss. It was nightfall when I started home, but the sky was clear, the road good and I was making excellent time. I noticed that there were an unusual number of 'shooting stars,' and some of remarkable brilliancy. Suddenly the road was lit up with a glare equal to that of the noonday sun, only it had an orange tinge. I glanced up, and a ball of fire as large as my hat seemed to be coming right down upon me. Before I could think, much less act, it plunged into the buggy, blinding me for a moment by its glare, went through and buried itself in the ground. It bored a hole in the bottom of the buggy as large as a saucer and triangular in shape. It made a hissing noise as it fell, reminding me of the bluff of an enormous gander. My horse took fright and I had considerable difficulty in controlling him. I did not know that I was hurt until I had ridden fully a mile, when my left foot began to pain me. I examined it and found that the great toe was mashed flat and one of the large bones in my foot broken. That's why I go on crutches. If I could find that meteorite and dig it up I think we two might get a position in a dime museum."

The Chinese and Drowning.

The Chinese not only believe in spirits, but consider them endowed with all the evil dispositions of men. When a man is drowned they believe that his spirit is spell-bound to the water, unable to leave it until he has succeeded in drowning another man, whose spirit must take his place. Having found such a substitute, the spirit is liberated from the spell and can depart to higher spheres. That is why a Chinese will under no circumstances rescue a drowning man. The rescue would deprive the restless spirit of his substitute. The revengeful spirit would then leave the water in order to follow and haunt the rescuer, who to avoid the Chinese prescribers never to go to the rescue of anybody.

The Wisdom of a Child.

A dear little Philadelphia girl whose parents have had her duly instructed in Biblical lore, and who attends most regularly the Sunday school attached to an uptown church, has been very much interested of late in the movements of the comet and the possible result if it were to strike the earth in its erratic wanderings. The other evening, after having asked many questions regarding the heavenly stranger, she inquired, with all a child's naivete: "Well, mamma, does the Lord look after all the planets and the stars and everything up in the sky?" "Yes, dear," replied her mother; "why do you ask?" "Oh, nothing, only I thought he only just cared for Philadelphia."

A California Stone Elephant.

Ingo county, Cal., has a wonderful natural curiosity which closely resembles a monster petrified elephant. The rock which nature has given such an extraordinary form is a dark gray granite, almost the exact color of the Asiatic elephant's skin. The resemblance to an elephant in both form and color is said to be so perfect that the early gold seekers thought that they had discovered the petrified or fossilized remains of a real pachyderm.

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NEURALGIA.

Mrs. Mary K. Shedd, 224 11th St., S. W., Washington, D. C., states that for several years she suffered terribly with neuralgia and could find no relief. The pain was intense. She resolved to try St. Jacobs Oil. After having rubbed the parts affected three times only, all pain vanished and has not returned.

LUMBAGO.

LITCHFIELD, KANS. I suffered 11 months with pain in the small of the back; pronounced incurable by physicians; confined to the house most of the time. St. Jacobs Oil completely cured me. No return of pain in 4 years.

BRUISES.

BARABOO, WIS. Have not felt the least effects from my hurt since I was cured three years ago. I fell from my engine and struck my back; thought the life was knocked out of me.

S. W. DIXON.

RHEUMATISM.

Mr. John J. Smith, Busley, Michigan, was afflicted with rheumatism 15 years; his case was pronounced incurable by 3 physicians, but was cured by St. Jacobs Oil and has remained so.

S. M. GEARY, Druggist.

SCIATICA.

CHICAGO, ILL. I was given up by doctors three years ago, when troubled with sciatic rheumatism, and had to use a crutch; suffered about six years. First application of St. Jacobs Oil relieved; two bottles cured.

GEORGE A. ROSE.

SPRAINS.

Mr. Charles Joseph, 1194 Langton St., San Francisco, Cal., says: I sprained my ankle so badly I could not walk, and tried almost everything known, without relief, when one day a friend advised me to use St. Jacobs Oil. I did so and was speedily and wonderfully cured.

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